



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE DIVISION OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



February 2020 Newsletter



Inside the Issue

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

We chatted with undergraduate student Zayira Quiroz Parraga about her internship experience abroad in Bangkok, Thailand.

CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS!

This Louisiana tradition dates back to the 1700's and is celebrated with parades, cake, and beads. Our Campus celebrates with our very own parade!

CAMPUS RESOURCES

We list important dates you need to know for this semester and provide important resources you might need in the near future.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month, a time for celebrating African-American achievements and recognizing their central role in United States history.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

Did you know?

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette was the first college in the south to peacefully integrate four black students in September of 1954.

Today, an academic scholarship awarded to African-American students pays tribute to SLI's first black graduate, Christiana Smith, Class of 1956. You can see Christiana's portrait in Dupré library to this day!



OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

Our office will be holding another session covering OPT and CPT on April 3rd. For questions or concerns about OPT and CPT, please refer to the Office of International Affairs' website. If your question cannot be answered using our website, please feel free to attend one of our International Hour Information Sessions or come to our office during OPT and CPT advising sessions from 2 p.m- 5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday in Room 136 of the Student Union. Students graduating in the Spring 2020 semester can apply for OPT through the DGE from February 15, 2020 through July 7, 2020.

INTERNATIONAL HOUR: INCOME TAX INFORMATION

As an F-1 or J-1 Student, it's important to understand the tax requirements of your visa and filing obligations with the IRS. To 'file' your taxes means to prepare and submit your income tax return from the previous year to the IRS using federal (and state) forms. The deadline to submit tax forms to the IRS is **Wednesday, April 15, 2020**. There are several different ways to file your taxes including using a tax preparation service (Sprintax, Glacier, Taxback), using a certified public accountant (clarifying non-resident tax status), or self preparation. Our office has partnered with Sprintax to offer a \$5 discount on Federal Tax Return. (sprintax.com/louisiana-edu) If you have any further questions please contact our DGE office at (337)482-6819 or uia@louisiana.edu.





MARDI GRAS SEASON IS HERE!

Mardi Gras is right around the corner and everyone is ready for the break, the parades, and the king cake! Mardi Gras is a very unique holiday, and with it comes an exciting history. Set 46 days before Easter and marking the end of carnival season, this tradition coincides with the 40 days of Lent practiced by the Catholic Church. In 1892, each color that makes up the theme of Mardi Gras was given a different meaning to symbolize the holiday. Purple represents justice, green represents faith, and gold signifies power. Another tradition that is popular in Louisiana around Mardi Gras is king cakes! Historically, there was a token that was placed in the cakes, and whoever found the token was declared royalty for the night. Now, a small baby is put in the cake and whoever finds it has to buy the next king cake!



KREWE DE ROUX PARADE

The Krewe of Roux Mardi Gras Parade and Ball is set for Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020! The Krewe is one of UL Lafayette's longstanding traditions, a deep connection between the University, Lafayette, and Acadiana's proud Cajun roots. The parade begins at 4:00 pm, running from Rex and Lewis Streets to St. Mary, down to McKinley, then over to Boucher St. The King Cake ceremony follows on Boucher St., then the Ball happens in the Mardi Gras Ballroom at the Cajundome Convention Center from 8:00 pm-11:00 pm. There is no attendance fee, but you do need your Cajun Card to enter the Ball. UPC will have a shuttle running between the Student Union and the Cajundome CC beginning at 7:45 pm. Après le défilé, vous devriez tous aller au bal. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

MARDI GRAS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tips for Fat Tuesday!

Where can I park?

You can park along a side street free of charge, avoiding driveways and private property. If you want to watch the parades from Le Festival de Mardi Gras, you may park for a fee at Cajun Field. Admission to the festival is free.

Is it family friendly?

Absolutely! Lafayette's Mardi Gras celebration is geared towards families.

Will streets be closed?

The Lafayette Police Department will close all streets on and around the parade route one hour before the event begins. The intersection of University Avenue and Johnston Street, along with the intersection of St. Mary Boulevard and Johnston Street, will remain open as crossover intersections until the parade is several blocks from the location.

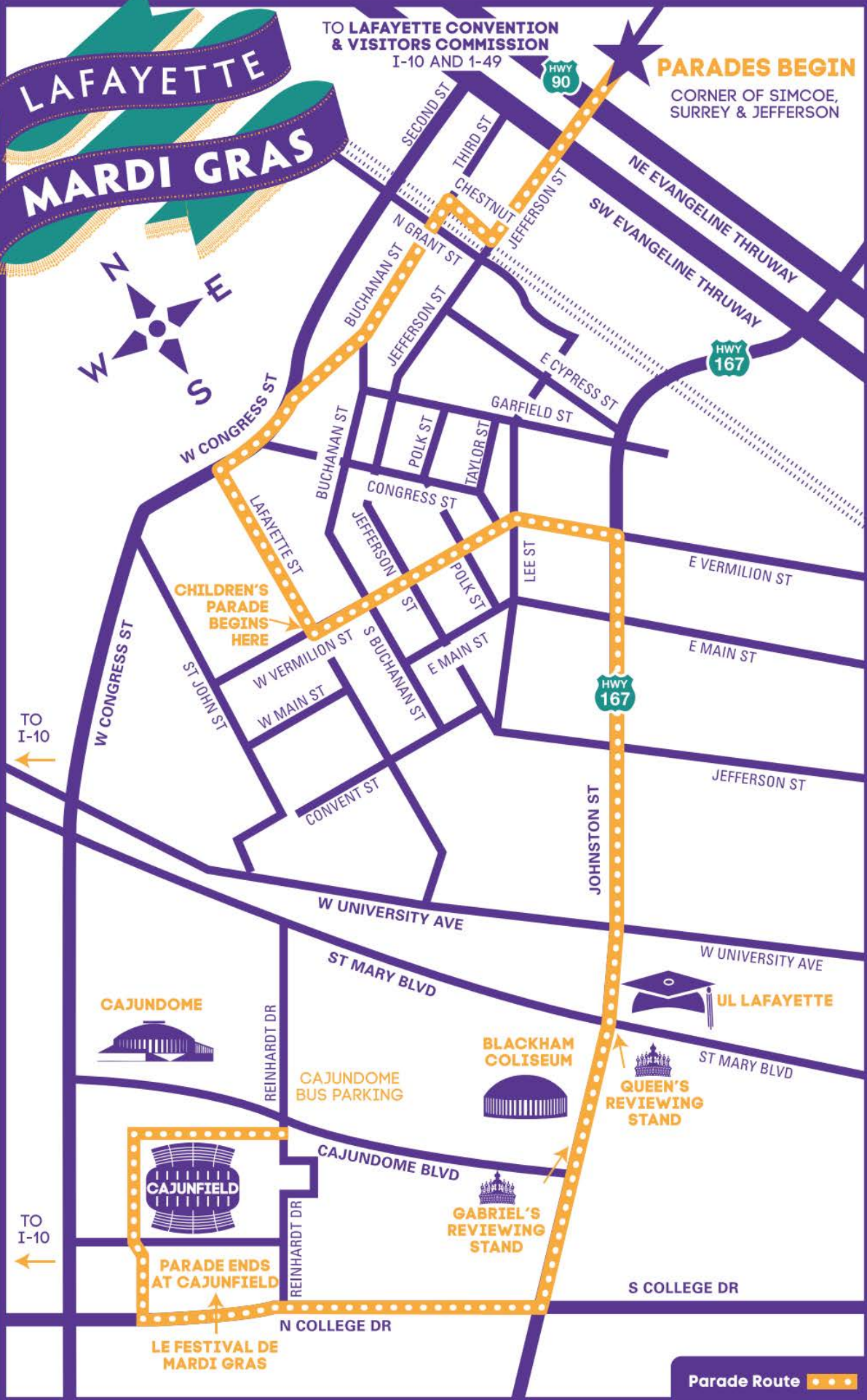
What are some safety tips?

While the parades are in progress you should stay behind the barricades. Definitely have fun and let loose, but realize that lewd behavior and/or drunkenness can get you arrested. Don't throw things at the float riders. It's not only disrespectful, but you could seriously hurt someone. If you have children make sure to keep them close and decide on a meeting area in case you get separated from each other. There are several items that are prohibited along the parade route, including weapons, fireworks, bicycles, glass containers, and pets.

LAFAYETTE MARDI GRAS

TO LAFAYETTE CONVENTION & VISITORS COMMISSION
I-10 AND I-49

PARADES BEGIN
CORNER OF SIMCOE, SURREY & JEFFERSON



CHILDREN'S PARADE BEGINS HERE

TO I-10

TO I-10

PARADE ENDS AT CAJUNFIELD
LE FESTIVAL DE MARDI GRAS

Parade Route

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ZAYIRA QUIROZ PARRAGA

Meet your classmates!



Zayira Quiroz Parraga is an undergraduate student from Ecuador pursuing a degree in Political Science at UL Lafayette.

What has been your fondest memory of your time at UL Lafayette?

Working for the Division of Global Engagement and being the president of the International Student Council. I was given the support and opportunities I needed to invest in my own professional and personal development. My DGE family always encourage me to give the best in whatever I do and to dream, plan, execute and repeat.

Why should other international students choose to attend UL Lafayette?

Besides all the amazing programs, scholarships and opportunities the university offers for international students, UL will make you feel part of a family where you are valued and respected. As an international student I know how hard it is to study away from home but at UL we don't only leave with a degree, we also leave with a second family and long-lasting friendships.

What's been your favorite cultural experience in Thailand?

My favorite experience so far was celebrating the Lunar New Year or Chinese New Year with my Humanitarian Affairs family. We decorated the office red because it represents good luck and prosperity. Lunar New Year in Thailand is, like in other Chinese communities around the world, a family reunion time where you eat a lot of tasty food and that's exactly what we did. We also learned about the culture and traditions.



ISC PRESIDENT HEADS TO THAILAND FOR INTERNSHIP

Undergraduate student Zayira Quiroz Parraga is currently working in Bangkok, Thailand for Humanitarian Affairs. This internship will last the entirety of the spring 2020 semester. She is working as a Global Youth Specialist for the 11th University Scholars Leadership Symposium during a 7-month placement in Bangkok, with Humanitarian Affairs Asia (HA). Zayira's main focus is to recruit like-minded individuals who are passionate about social change. Her duties range from obtaining information on youth organizations, NGOs and Universities to supporting and working behind scenes for the 2nd Peace Summit of Emerging Leaders 2020 at the United Nations Conference Centre.

This year, they have the privilege to work on a 3-month education for all project in a government elementary school where they will be conducting English lessons to benefit 500 children. If you're interested in participating in a USLS program like Zayira, please contact her at zayira.quiroz@humanitarianaffairs.org for more info about the upcoming symposium.



Zayira (bottom right) celebrating the Lunar New Year with her HA family

STUDENT RESOURCES & IMPORTANT DATES

Take advantage of these campus resources.

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Mardi Gras Holiday
February 24th-26th

Spring Break
April 10th-19th

Deadline to Submit
IRS Tax forms
April 15th 2020

OPT Application
Deadline for Spring
2020 Grads
July 7th 2020



INTERNATIONAL HOUR EVENTS

February 14th- Income Tax Info Session

As an F-1 or J-1 Student, it's important to understand the tax requirements of your visa and filing obligations with the IRS. Basic tax info was covered.

March 20th- CPT Info Session

Come to the Spring 2020 CPT Info Session to learn about the process for internships for F-1 students just in time for summer.

April 3rd- OPT & CPT Info Session

The last International Hour of the semester includes a presentation of the various types of work authorization for F-1 Students.

INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

<u>2020 Sessions</u>	<u>Deadline for Students outside the U.S.</u>	<u>Deadline for Students inside the U.S.</u>
Spring I 2020 (January 9 – March 13)	November 29, 2019	December 13, 2019
Spring II 2020 (March 19 – May 22)	February 7, 2020	March 9, 2020
Summer 2020 (June 4 – July 31)*	May 1, 2020	May 25, 2020
Fall I 2020 (August 6 – October 2)*	June 26, 2020	July 31, 2020
Fall II 2020 (October 8 – December 4)*	September 4, 2020	October 5, 2020

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UL Lafayette Division of Global Engagement

International Student Council at UL Lafayette



@ulglobalengagement
@ISC_UL

SAVE THE DATE

May 11th- 2020 Farewell Reception

All 2020 graduates and their families are invited to attend this event honoring new alumni of the University.